NOV, 17 2004

PATENT APPLICATION

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q77369

USUI, Minoru, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/662,397

Group Art Unit: 2856

Confirmation No.: 1476

Examiner: Andre JACKSON

Filed: September 16, 2003

For:

LIQUID CONSUMPTION STATUS DETECTING METHOD, LIQUID CONTAINER,

AND INK CARTRIDGE

## <u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u> <u>UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98</u>

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application. One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except that no copies are provided of any U.S. patents, U.S. patent publications, and U.S. patent applications filed after June 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (without a Statement Under 37 C.F.R § 1.97(e)) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore a check for the fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is attached.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant has submitted English abstracts thereof.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/662,397

Atty. Docket: Q77369

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: November 17, 2004

Registration No. 41,574

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO	Сотр	olete if Known
+ · · ·	Application Number	10/662,397
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	Confirmation Number	1476
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Filing Date	September 16, 2003
( ) 8	First Named Inventor	USUI, Minoru
(use as many sheets as necessary)	Art Unit	2856
(use as many sneets as necessary)	Examiner Name	Andre JACKSON
Sheet 1 of 4	Attorney Docket Number	Q77369

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner	Cita	Document N	umber	Publication Date				
Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document			
		US 4,677,448		6/30/1987	Mizusawa et al.			
		US 2003/0117450	A1	6/26/2003	Usui et al.			
		US 2003/0043216	A1	3/6/2003	Usui et al.			
		US 2003/0117451	A1	6/26/2003	Usui et al.			
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Examiner	Cite	Fo	reign Patent Docur	nent	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or	Translation <sup>6</sup>
Initials*	No.1	Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Translation
		CN	1274645	Α	11/29/2000		Abstract
		EP	885 731	A2	12/23/1998		
		EP	860 284	A2	8/26/1998		
		EP	956 964	A2	11/17/1999		
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		JP	10-323997	Α	12/8/1998		Abstract
		JP	11-10909	A	1/19/1999		Abstract

	NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS	
Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Cite Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine,

Examiner Signature	Date Cons	nsidered

<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.

Substitute for Form 14	· Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO				lete if Known
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STAT	TEMENT BY A	PPLIC	ANT	Filing Date	September 16, 2003
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS									
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Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document				
		US 6,536,861	B1	3/25/2003	Usui et al.				
		US 6,361,136	B1	3/26/2002	Watanabe et al.				
i i		US 6,438,500	B1	8/20/2002	Froger et al.				
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	·	JP	11-277760	Α	10/12/1999		Abstract
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		US 6,012,794	A	1/11/2000	Nakano et al.			
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		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
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		US 6,155,664	Α	12/5/2000	Cook			
		US 3,394,589		7/30/1968	Tomioka			
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Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date	Name of Patentee or	
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		JP	2-034353	A	2/5/1990		Abstract
		JP	11-020162	Α	1/26/1999		Abstract
		JP	7-081290	Α	3/28/1995		Abstract
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		JP	3-036037	Α	2/15/1991		Abstract
		JP	11-048490	Α	2/23/1999		Abstract
		EP	0 881 079	A2	2/12/1998		
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